REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated May 4, 2007, claims 1, 2, 8 and 12have been amended, and claims 30-32 have been added. Claims 1-9, 12 and 30-32 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added. Claims 10, 11 and 13-29 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 9 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner contends that the last 3 lines of claim 2 are not clear.

To expedite prosecution, the language of claim 2 that the Examiner considers to be not clear have been amended to recite:

> the branching-off parts are located at drop-on positions on which the droplet of the electrode raw material forming the source electrode and the drain electrode is to be dropped, and are positioned removed from the channel section, the position of the branching-off parts removed from the channel position is based on allowance of the drop-on positions.

Thus, amended claim 2 recites the invention with the degree of precision and particularity required by the statute. Therefore, it is respectfully urged that this rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

I. Claims 1-3, 6 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Amundson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,545,291).

An important feature of claim 1 is that the "branch section at branching-off parts thereof is located off a forming area of the semiconductor layer". In other words, referring to Fig. 1 of the present application, this feature can be expressed as "the branching-off parts 17b or 18b of the branch section 17a or 18a is located off a forming area of the semiconductor layer 16".

Moreover, as described at page 5, lines 6 to 22 of the present application, this feature makes it "possible to have the drop-on positions at the branching-off parts located off the forming area of the semiconductor layer", whereby "in forming the source electrode and the drain electrode, it is possible to prevent the adherence of the splash droplet on the channel section between the electrodes". This is an important feature of the present invention.

Regarding this feature, the Examiner comments that Figs. 5A - 5B of Amundson et al. illustrates the semiconductor layer 150 extending to and beyond the data line 330, and this feature of Amundson et al. corresponds to the above-mentioned feature of claim I, of the present application. However, Fig. 5B of Amundson et al. illustrates a plurality of the data lines 330 provided **within** the region of the semiconductor layer 150 but NOT out of the region of the semiconductor layer 150.

In view of the above, claim 1 is patentable over Amundson et al., as are amended claim 2 and claims 3, 6 and 12,

II. Claims 1-3 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sirringhaus et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0059984).

The Examiner merely cites Fig. 6 of Sirringhaus et al., saying that this figure discloses the characteristic feature of independent claim 1 (and independent claim 12). However, paragraph [0101] of Sirringhaus et al., which explains Fig. 6, merely discloses that the present-day inkjet printing technology is limited to channel length L of 10 to 20μm, and the ink-surface interactions should be employed for attaining finer feature resolution. Thus, Sirringhaus et al. does NOT disclose or suggest an arrangement in which the branching-off part is located off the region of the semiconductor layer.

In view of the above, independent claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Sirringhaus et al, as are amended claim 2 and claim 3.

III. Claims 4, 5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amundson et al. in view of Kane et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0145144).

The Examiner admits that Amundson et al. does not disclose "at least one of the source electrode and the drain electrode has a part that gets gradually wider toward the forming area of the semiconductor layer" (claim 4). Kane is relied upon by the Examiner as showing this feature, referring to figures 2 and 4. However, claim 4 requires that a part of the source electrode and/or the drain electrode have a part that gets gradually wider toward the forming area of the semiconductor layer. Figs. 2 and 4 of Kane et al. show ***a gap between*** adjacent electrodes getting wider as the electrode extends toward the

forming area of the semiconductor layer. As can be clearly seen in Figs. 2 and 4 of Kane et al., ***the portion of each electrode*** that extends toward the forming area of the semiconductor layer is actually getting **narrower**, not wider.

Thus, claims 4, and claim 5 depending from claim 4, are patentable over Amundson et al. and Kane et al., considered alone or in combination.

IV. At any rate, to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to additionally recite, *inter alia*:

> the branching-off parts are located at drop-on positions on which the droplet of the electrode raw material forming the source electrode and the drain electrode is to be dropped, and are positioned removed from the channel section, the position of the branching-off parts removed from the channel position is based on allowance of the drop-on positions.

This is the language that was added to claim 2. Independent claim 12 has been similarly amended.

In addition, claim 2, amended as noted above, has been further amended to be in independent form including the limitations of base claim 1 except that the first clause after "wherein" has been changed from "the source electrode and the drain electrode are formed by applying a droplet of an electrode raw material, and have a branch..." to "the source electrode and the drain electrode have a branch..."

Finally, claim 8 has been amended to depend directly from amended independent claim 1 and new independent claims 30-32 have been added. Claims 30-32 correspond to original claims 4, 8 and 9 respectively, written in independent form including all the limitations of original base claim 1 and any intervening claims.

In view of the above, the allowance of claims 1-9 and 12, as amended, as well as of new claims 30-32 is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

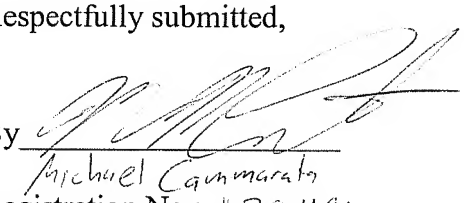
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: August 6, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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